

ap. 24, 1855,

1821

To Abraham Messler of the Class that graduated at Union College, in the year 1821
(or, if deceased, to the friend or relative who knew him best :)

SIR,—

It is the aim of the subscriber, in collecting the information asked for by the following questions, to obtain materials for a concise Biographical Catalogue of the Trustees, Presidents, Professors and Tutors of Union College ;—of those who have received Honorary Degrees from it, and of all who have ever entered that Institution, whether Graduates or not.

That such a work would be interesting and useful to the Alumni, will not be denied ; but whether it be practicable, will depend chiefly upon the ready aid which they shall impart. This circular will be sent to every Graduate whose residence is known, (or, if deceased, to some near connection,) and it is confidently expected that no one will neglect to return it in due time, with as full information as circumstances will allow :—some of the questions, indeed, it may not be possible to answer with certainty ; others not at all : still, it is hoped that no important facts will be withheld because of their fewness.

Death has removed the twenty-four original Trustees, the first three Presidents, the early Professors and Tutors, and from eight hundred to one thousand of the Alumni of the College. Doubtless their friends and descendants will cheerfully contribute such information as may be necessary to illustrate the lives and services of the departed.

The subscriber desires every aid that may help to throw light upon the personal history of those concerned :—Obituary Notices ; Biographical Sketches, Epitaphs, Funeral Sermons, Newspaper Notices of election to important offices or stations, Business Cards and Advertisements ; also, copies of their Literary Works, Addresses, Sermons, Essays, Newspapers, engraved Portraits, &c. ; all of which will be deposited and preserved in an Alcove of the College Library, to be set apart for “ Graduates’ Works.”

He also requests that all future changes affecting the answers which shall be given, be made known to him from time to time :—especially the deaths of Graduates, and that the usual obituary notices or funeral sermons published on such occasions, be sent with the announcements, as it is his purpose to publish these deaths hereafter once a year.

JONATHAN PEARSON, *Librarian.*

UNION COLLEGE,
SCHENECTADY, N. Y. }

SPECIMENS OF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FOR THE PROPOSED CATALOGUE.

John Glidden Brown was born in Quinipieck, N. Y., May 2, 1800 ; parents, James and Elizabeth (Glidden) Brown, who moved to Epsom, N. Y., in 1806. He was prepared for College at Helderbergh High School, under the instruction of Rev. Moses Johnson, and entered Union College Jan. 1817. He studied law with Hon. Septimus H. Smith, of Great Falls ; was admitted to the bar in 1821 ; and commenced the practice of law in Albany, with James S. Van Hoesen, Esq. In 1830 he moved to New-York City, which, thereafter, became his residence. He was Member of N. Y. Assembly 1832–5 ; State Senator 1836–8 ; Member of Congress 1839–41 ; and Judge of the Superior Court 1842–6. He died June 30, 1849, of cholera, aged 49 years. Besides occasional speeches, orations and opinions. he wrote a work on constitutional law, and edited the N. Y. State Papers. He received the Degree of L. L. D. from Hamilton College in 1846.

Joseph Henshaw Luther was born in Hanover, Mass., June 1 ; 1798 ; parents, Joseph and Madeline (Henshaw) Luther ; prepared for College at Yorkville Academy, John Almy, Esq., Principal ; and entered Union College Sept. 1814. He taught, 1818–20, in East Philadelphia, (Penn.) High School ; graduated at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1823 ; and was ordained Sept. 25, 1823, at Marletown, N. Y. ; and was Pastor of the Presbyterian Church till 1825. He was Pastor of the 1st Congregational Church of Haselton, Conn., 1825–30 ; Professor of Rhetoric in Erie College 1831–40 ; retired on account of ill health, and now resides in Philadelphia, Pa. He has published six sermons on various occasions ; a series of lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres, and the “ Communicant’s Companion.” He received the Degree of D. D. from the Hudson University in 1842.

Thomas Pennington Radway was born Feb. 23, 1778, in Benton, N. Y. ; parents, John Harmony and Mary (Pennington) Radway ; was prepared for College at High Holme School, Rev. Hanover Kelton, Principal ; entered Union College Sept. 1795 ; taught a few months in Suncook, Mass., in 1799 ; studied medicine with Dr. Jonas Physic and Dr. Abram Potecar, of Camermile ; attended medical lectures at the College of Surgeons and Physicians, and was admitted to, and commenced the practice of medicine in La Rhine, in 1806. He was Surgeon in the Army 1813–15, and returned to practice at Oldbury in 1815, where he has since resided. He lectured in the Fairhaven Medical School on Anatomy and Physiology, 1830–5, and has published several articles in the New-York Medical Review, and two larger works on the “ Functions of the Brain,” and on “ Gunshot Wounds.”

- N. B. 1. Let the answers to the following questions be as full and authentic as possible ; but when doubtful let them be marked thus (?).
2. When the person is deceased let some near relative or friend fill out the blanks to the best of his knowledge ; if he have but one fact, let that be sent.
3. Let as much time be taken as may be found necessary for this purpose, and no more.
4. In case this sheet be not sufficient to contain all the facts to be sent, add another of the same size, if possible, leaving an inner margin of not less than one inch for binding.
5. In cases where no answers to this circular shall be returned, the editor will be obliged to publish such names without any biographical notices, or to rely upon information, gathered from other sources, and, therefore, not always authentic.

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INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE FOREGOING SKETCHES.

I. Name. *Abraham Messler*

[Let this be written plainly and the middle names in full.]

II. Names of both Parents; thus:— *Cornelius Messler and Mary (Stricker) Messler*
[John and Elizabeth (Smith) Johnson.]

III. Birth Place. *Readington Somerset Co N.J.* Birth Day and Year. *Nov 15th 1800*

IV. Various residences and dates; thus:—
[Pittsfield, Mass., 1814-24; Albany, N. Y., 1824-30; New-York City, 1830-54.]

V. At what Academy or Academies prepared for College, with Principals and dates; thus:— *New German town and
[Albany Academy, Benjamin Allen, L. L. D., 1815-17.]
Bedminster John M. Honeyman M.D. Rev P.O. Stoddard D.D. & Rev Horace
Galperin at Readington N.J.*

VI. At what College he graduated, and when. *Union College 1821*

VII. The occupation he followed after leaving college before studying his profession; thus:—
[Teaching, Washington, D. C., 1847-48, or Merchant's Clerk, New-York City, 1849-51.]

VIII. The profession he studied; where; with whom; when; thus:— *Theology under Rev John H. Livingston D.D.
[Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary, 1822-5 or Law in Albany, N. Y. with Hon. Harmanus Bleecker, 1840-2.]
at Theological Seminary of R.D. Church at Brunswick N.J. 1821-4
John Ludlow D.D. and John De Wolf D.D. assistant Professors. Learned to
preach the Gospel May 27. 1824 - Ordained at White House N.J. April 27. 1825.*

IX. Where he has practised his profession, with dates; and in case he be a clergyman, mention the denomination to which he belongs;
thus:—

[Epis., Somerville, N. J., 1827-30; Pres., Albany, N. Y., 1830-5; New-York City, 1835-54.] *Settled in the Ref. Church of Otis N.J.
May 1825. Resigned July 25. 1828 - Installed Pastor of Pompton Plains & Montville
N.J. May - 1829. Resigned - and was Installed Pastor of the Ref. Church
of Raritan Somerville N.J. Nov 1832 -*

X. The other occupations he has followed; when and where; thus:—

[Merchant, Rochester, N. Y., 1829-35; or Farmer, Geneseo, N. Y., 1835-54; or Manufacturer, Schenectady, N. Y., 1841-48; or Professor, teacher, banker, editor, &c.]

XI. The important offices he has held, with dates; thus:— *President of the General Synod of the Ref.
[Surrogate of Jefferson Co., N. Y., 1839-41 and 1845-7; Member of Congress, 21st district, N. Y., 1841-43; Member of Assembly, of N. Y., 1821-4, &c., &c.]
Dutch Church in 46 - Trustee of Rutgers College*

XII. The Literary or Scientific Works he has written or edited. *Pastor's Memorial, occasional ser-
mons, The Christian Ministry.*
[Copies are solicited for the "Graduates Alcove" in College Library.]

XIII. The names of his relatives who graduated at Union College.

XIV. The literary, professional, or honorary titles he received; from whence, with dates; thus:—
[M. D., from Albany Medical College 1845; or LL. D., Amherst College, 1850, &c.]

LL. D. from Rutgers College July 1844

XV. Is there an engraved portrait of him?
[One or two copies, together with his autograph, are solicited for College Library.]

XVI. The date, circumstances, and place of his death.
[Send any printed notice, biographical sketch, funeral sermon, &c. In many instances more space will be required to answer this and the three following questions, in which case add an additional sheet.]

XVII. General information respecting character, services, success, interesting passages and events in his life, &c.

XVIII. Some account of his pedigree and family; its original seat in this or the old country, &c., &c. *His Ancestors were from Holland - Paternal emigrated in 1643 - maternal later - they were French Protestants and fled at the time of the massacre of St Bartholomew settled on Long Island, emigrated to Somerset Co at an early date, and have ever since been among its most respectable citizens - My father served in the Revolutionary war, was in the battle of Springfield &c. & was for many years an Elder in the Church of White House, and always maintained a consistent Christian Character, living until he had reached the age of 85 years -*

XIX. List of such graduates as may not be widely known; their residences, professions, dates of deaths, &c.; the name and residence, also, of some near friend of the deceased, that further information may be sought for; thus:—

[John Orton Smith, Banker, Chicopee, Mass., died 1848. His brother, Joseph H. Smith, resides in Springfield, Mass.]

Charles Butler Esq. Farmington N.H.

1821

Rev. Abraham Messler, D. D., is at Somerville, N. J. C. Nov. 1880

MESSLER, AB. b. at Whitehouse, N.J., Nov. 15, 1800; U.C. 1821, N.B.S. 1824, I. Cl. N.B. 1824; Miss. to Montville, Aug.-Nov. 1824, Miss. to Ovid, 1824, Ovid, 1825-8, Miss. in North St., New-York City, 1828-9, Pompton Plains and Montville, 1829-32, Raritan, 1st, 1832-40, D.D. by R.C. 1843. Elected a trustee of R.C. 1845. *Dec. 1882, June 12 at Raritan, N.J.*
Publications: Fruits of Early Piety. American S.S.U. 1838.—Pastor's Memorial. 1852.—Eight Memorial Sers. and Hist. Notes of Chs. in Somerset Co., N.J. 1873.—Life and Pub. Services of Ex-Gov. Vroom. 1874.—Centennial Hist. of Somerset Co. 1878.—Ser. at Dedication Ch. Lodi, N.Y., 1827. (*Mag. R.D.C.* ii. 11, 38.—Address at Laying Corner-stone of Ch. Raritan, 1835.—Ser. at Dedication, 1836.—St. Paul's Gratitude to Onesephorous. 1839.—Man Frail and Mortal: Fun. Ser. of J. H. Castner. 1841.—Domestic Feeling in Our Church. 1845.—Life and Immortality: Fun. Ser. of Mrs. Thompson. 1849.—Ser. at Ordination of Rev. J. Gaston. 1852.—Ser. at the Install. of Rev. John Steele. 1853.—The End of the Upright: Ser. at Fun. of Jas. Campbell. 1864.—Ser. on Death of Pres. Lincoln. 1865.—Thanksgiving Ser. 1868.—The Hollanders in N.J. 1830.—Address at Dr. G. Ludlow's Semi-Centennial. 1871.—Address at Fun. of Rev. Van Liew. 1869.—In *Somerset Messenger* the following: Indians on the Raritan; Military Operations in Somerset Co. in Revolution; Chimney Rock; Washington Rock; Simcoe's Raid; First Things in Old Somerset.—*Serials in Christian Intelligencer*, as follows: The Christian Ministry, 52 arts., 1853; Confession of Faith, 13 arts.; Local Reminiscences in Holland, 12 arts.; in Belgium, 8 arts.; of the Rhine and Rhineland, 24 arts.; of the Isle of Wight, 12 arts.; Reforms and Reformers before the Reformation, 33 arts.; Science and the Bible, 13 arts.—Editorials in *Ch. Int.*, 1855-61; again, 1870-1.—Arts. in *Sprague's Annals*: On Rev. T. J. Frelinghuysen; On Rev. J. R. Hardenbergh.—Reminiscences of Dr. T. DeWitt in *De Witt Memorial*.

RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR REGULAR INSERTION.

ABRAHAM MESSLER, '21.

His original residence was New Germantown, N. J., and his last residence, as given in the College Catalogue, was Somerville, N. J., where he died, June 12th, 1882, in his 82nd year. He received the degree of D.D.

D.D.

Somerville, N. J.

*ABRAHAM MESSLER,

D.D.
1843

Rutgers

Born at White House, N. J., Nov. 15, 1800. A.B. (Union, 1821). A.M. (Union, 1824). N. B. Sem., 1824. Clergyman, R. C. A. President. General Synod, 1847. Trustee Rutgers, 1845-82. Died, June 12, 1882.

*BERNARD C. WOLF (also A.M., 1835).

Rutgers cat. p. 340.

*appointed
Trustee of
Rutgers*

1845

REV. ABRAHAM MESSLER, D.D., Somerville, N. J. *1882 D.D. (Rutgers, 1843). *Union 1821*

Rutgers cat. p. 14

Reverend Abraham Messler, of the class of 1821 at Union graduated here in 1824. He died June 12, 1882. Can you tell me the place of his death? *From New Brunswick, N.J. Oct. 1933*

Messler, AB. b. at Whitehouse, N.J., Nov. 15, 1800; U.C. 21, N.B.S. 24, I. Cl. N.B.; Miss. to Montville, Aug.-Nov. 24, Miss. to Ovid, 24, Ovid, 25-8, Miss. in North st., New York City, 28-9, Pompton Plains and Montville, 29-32, Raritan, 1st, 1832-82, d. June 12. D.D. by R.C. 1848. Elected a trustee of R.C. 1845. President of Gen. Synod, 1847.

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*ABRAHAM MESSLER

Born at Whitehouse, N. J., November 15, 1800. A.B. (Union, 1821). Licensed by Classis of New Brunswick, 1824. Missionary to Montville, N. J., 1824; to Ovid, N. Y., 1824. Ovid, N. Y., 1825-28. Missionary in North St., New York City, 1828-29. Pompton Plains and Montville, N. J., 1829-32. Raritan, 1st, N. J., 1832-82. D.D. (Rutgers, 1843). President, General Synod, 1847. Trustee, Rutgers, 1845-82. Published: (1) Fruits of Early Piety, 1838; (2) Pastor's Memorial, 1852; (3) Eight Memorial Sermons and Historical Notes, 1873; (4) Life and Public Services of Ex-Governor Vroom, 1874. Died at Somerville, N. J., June 12, 1882.

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Rev. ABRAHAM MESSLER, 1821, of Germantown, N.J., was a member of the Philomathean Society. (Died: 1882)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

ABRAHAM MESSLER.

Born at Whitehouse, N. J., November 15, 1800. A.B. (Union, 1821.) Licensed by Classis of New Brunswick, 1824. Missionary to Montville, 1824; to Ovid, 1824. Ovid, 1825-28. Missionary in North St., New York City, 1828-29. Pompton Plains and Montville, 1829-32. Raritan, 1st, 1832-82. D.D. (Rutgers, 1845-82. Published: (1) Fruits of Early Piety, 1838; (2) Pastor's Memorial, 1852; (3) Eight Memorial Sermons and Historical Notes, 1873; (4) Life and Public Services of Ex-Governor Vroom, 1874. Died, June 12, 1882.

From: New Brunswick Theological Seminary Catalogue
1784-1911 p. 80

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Abraham Messler of Somerville, N.J.,
 Born at White House, N.J., Nov. 15, 1800, died at
 Somerville, June 12, 1882, educated at Union
 College, Schenectady, N.Y., and New Brunswick
 Theol. Sem., D.D., Pastor 1st Reformed Church,
 At Somerville 1832-79. Author of several
 works on the Hollanders in New Jersey and
 on the history of Somerset Co., N.J. N. Sep. 11, 1826
 Eleanor dan. of Cornelius and Elanor
 (Mandeville) Doremus.

(Am. Ancestry V. 4, p. 166. 1889)

1821

ABRAHAM MESSLER.

Received the honorary degree of D. D.,
at the annual commencement of Rutgers
College on July 26, 1843.-

Daily Albany Argus, July 31, 1843.

1821

ABRAHAM MESSLER.

Abraham Messler - Poem " The Song of
the Brook " in Daily Albany Argus.
March 19, 1841

Called to become pastor of Pompton Plains, N.J. Reformed Dutch Church, February 14, 1829. He also preached at Montville, N.J.. For each field the salary was \$250. He was installed May 31, 1829.

He was born at Whitehouse, N.J., Nov. 15, 1800.

Graduated from Union College in 1821 and from New Brunswick, Seminary in 1824. His next field was Somerville, N.J. Was at Pompton Plains $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. His pastorate at Somerville extended through 50 years.

He died in 1852.

Rutgers gave him the degree of D.D. in 1843. (The Albany Argus of July 31, 1843 notes that Rutgers gave him the degree in that year at commencement on July 26).

He was president of the General Synod of Reformed Dutch Church in 1847.

He was a Rutgers College Trustee.

PUBLICATIONS:

Fruits of Early Piety, Pastor's Memorial.
Centennial History of Somerset County, N.J.
Man, Frail and Mortal.
Domestic Feeling in Reformed Church.
Life and Immortality.
The End of the Upright.
Death of President Lincoln.
The Hollanders in New Jersey.
Science and the Bible (13 articles).
Reformation and Reformers for the Reformation.

He was eminent as a man, a preacher and a pastor. He was an eloquent preacher and led thirteen young men into the ministry. In 1854 he spent five months in Europe. He wrote many articles on Belgium, Holland and the Rhineland. His greatest literary work, written in 1861, was a series of 13 articles on "The Belgic Confession of Faith," which is the most elaborate history of that confession in the English language. In 1853 he wrote 52 articles in the "Christian Intelligencer."

From W.N.P. Dailey '84
December 24, 1947.

Abraham Messler A.B. 1821

1821
Abraham Messer F.B.